

Appln. No. 40/002,448
(Type in response/amendment) dated January 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 7, 2003

the extruder, then optimal dispersion of the resin in the mechanical disperser. Third, use of a hybrid system provides a quick and efficient way to cool the dispersion as soon as it is formed without undesirable reaction, degradation, or coalescence of polymer. In contrast, rapid cooling of a dispersion formed by way of a single extruder-dispersion unit is comparatively slow and undesirable polymer degradation, etc. is more likely to occur.

Moreover, Applicant's process requires the addition of pigment, which is not taught or suggested by Choudhery. For this additional reason, Claim 1 is not anticipated by or obvious over Choudhery. Claims 2-7, which depend from Claim 1 and are, therefore, necessarily narrower in scope, are also patentable.

Claim 8 is further distinguished from Choudhery by virtue of requiring two polymers, one which is a solid at ambient temperature and the other which is tack or a liquid at ambient temperature. Like Claim 1, Claim 8 also requires a decoupled hybrid system. For these reasons, Claim 8 is not anticipated by or obvious over Choudhery. Claims 9-15, which depend from Claim 8 are also patentable.

For the above-stated reasons, Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be granted for Claims 1-15.

Respectfully submitted,



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